IS IT REALLY OKAY... TO KILL OTHERS TO SURVIVE?
AM I THE CRAZY ONE FOR NOT WANTING TO KILL MY FELLOW VILLAGERS... MY FRIENDS?
RUSTLE
SHFF

**SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 9:34 A.M.**

THE STORY

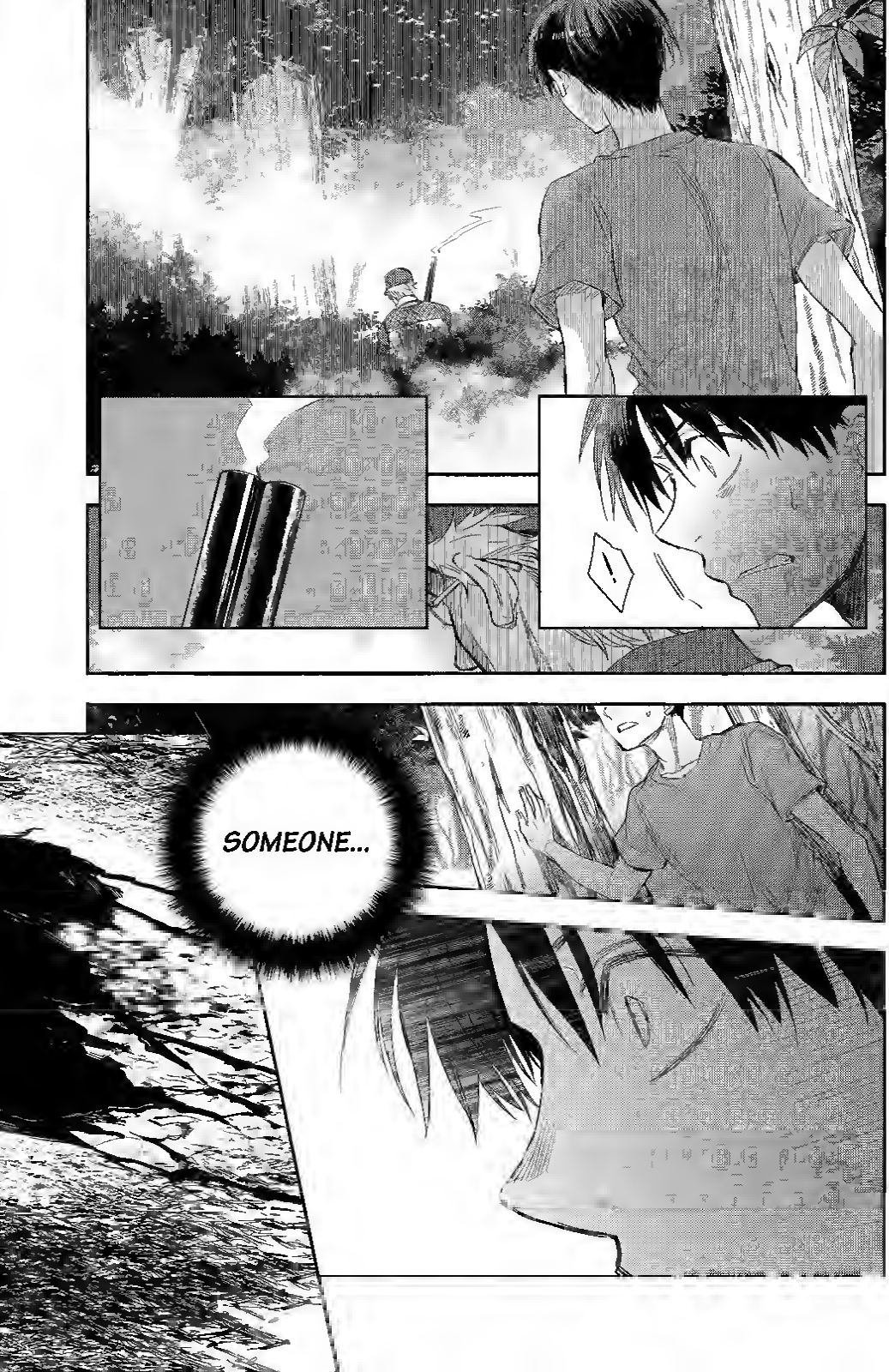
THE YEAR IS 1977, AND THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF YONAKI HAS BEEN QUARANTINED. KAZUNARI, MICHIKO, AND SHUUHEI HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO KILL TWO VILLAGERS EACH, AND THE REMAINING SURVIVORS ARE NOW COMPETING A MACABRE GAME, BATTLING FOR SURVIVAL. KAZUNARI DESPERATELY TRIES TO THINK OF A WAY FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE, BUT THE POLICE ARE NO HELP, AND MICHIKO HAS ALREADY CROSSED THE LINE BY KILLING HER OWN FATHER!

STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA ART BY J-TA YAMADA

# NG'S GAME ORIGIN

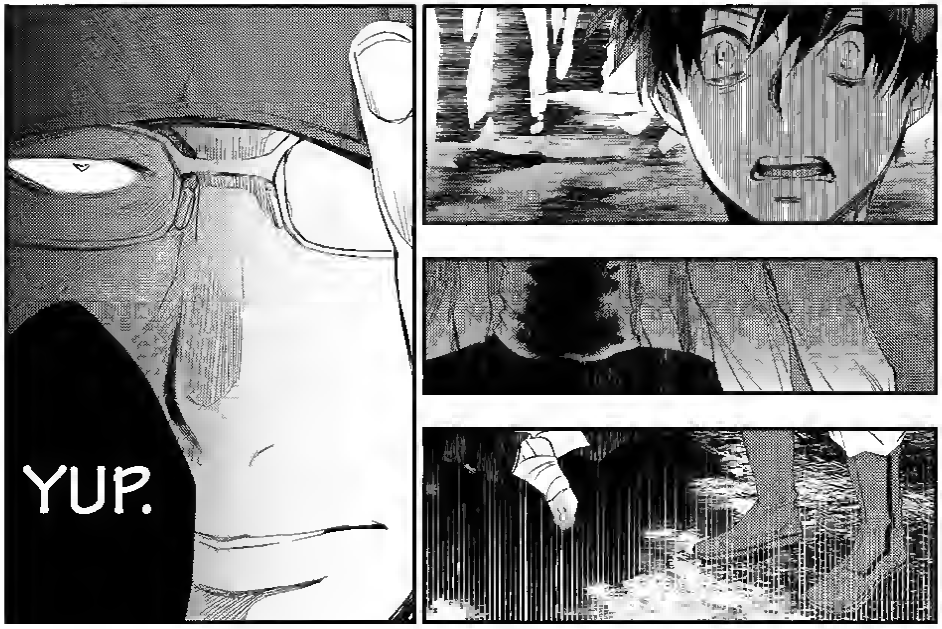
A GUNSHOT!
SHUUHEI-SAN!
HE'S GOT SOMEONE IN HIS SIGHTS!
BLAM
DASH
CHAPTER 25

WHAT AM I EVEN GONNA SAY?!
IF I STOP HIM, HE'LL BE KILLED BY THE KING'S PUNISHMENT!
BUT IF I DON'T STOP HIM, HE'LL SHOOT YUUJI OR SOMEONE ELSE.
SHIT, WHAT DO I DO?!
EITHER WAY, SOMEONE DIES!
SOMEONE...


!
SOMEONE...

YUUJI...

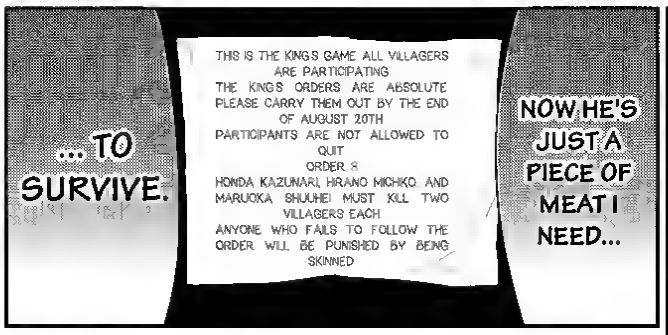
FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SHOT A PERSON... 'S A LOT EASIER THAN BOARS.
SHU—
SHUU HEI-SAN..
STAGGER
D-DID YOU REALLY...
JUST KILL... YUUJI?!


YUP.

I CHECKED AND HE'S NOT BREATHING, SO HE'S GOTTA BE GONE.
I USED THE BIG CALIBER SHELLS. THE ONES I USE FOR BEARS.
AND I GOT HIM AT CLOSE RANGE...
...SO HE TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE SHOT.
CLICK
DASH
NO...
YUUJI!
I HAD NO CHOICE.
IT WAS A COMPETITION, AND YUUJI LOST.
COMPE—

YUUJI MUST HAVE THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD FIND HIM HIDING HERE... HIS MISTAKE.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS A HEAVILY-WOODED AREA, AND IT'S HARD TO SEE THROUGH THE FOLIAGE.
AND FINISH IT OFF.
HE LEFT FOOTPRINTS, TOO.
BEING INTELLIGENT PREY, YOU CAN ASSUME HE'LL PICK A REASONABLY INTELLIGENT PLACE TO HIDE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
WHEN I HUNT, I'M CALCULATING. I TRACK MY PREY, CORNER IT...

HE'S OUR FRIEND!
YUUJI IS NOT PREY!


... TO SURVIVE.
THIS IS THE KING'S GAME ALL VILLAGERS ARE PARTICIPATING
THE KING'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE PLEASE CARRY THEM OUT BY THE END OF AUGUST 20TH
PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO QUIT
ORDER 8
HONDA KAZUNARI, HIRANO MICHIKO AND MARUOKA SHUUHEI MUST KILL TWO VILLAGERS EACH
ANYONE WHO FAILS TO FOLLOW THE ORDER WILL BE PUNISHED BY BEING SKINNED
NOW HE'S JUST A PIECE OF MEAT I NEED...

NOT ANY MORE.

GOING OUT MURDERING PEOPLE WITH THAT ATTI—
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT?!

GASP!!
YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON SURVIVING, KAZUNARU. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

!!
STARE
TECHNICALLY I COULD SHOOT YOU RIGHT NOW AND MY SURVIVAL WOULD BE GUARANTEED.
WE AGREED ON THE RULES, AND I'LL ABIDE BY THEM.
BUT...
I WON'T.
KA-CHAK

RULES?!
TWITCH
...IS TO JUSTIFY WHAT YOU'RE DOING?!
ONLY REASON YOU WON'T KILL ME...
I... SUP-POSE SO.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
ISN'T THAT WHAT ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD DO?
BUT...

I FIGURE THE ONLY SURVIVORS THIS TIME...
...WILL BE ME AND MICHIKO
I CAN'T COMPREHEND HOW YOU CAN CHOOSE TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING RIGHT NOW.

APPARENTLY SHE KILLED ATSUSHI-SAN?
WE'LL EACH KILL EITHER RYUUJI OR FUMIKO-SAN...
YOU'LL BE PUNISHED BY THE KING AND SKINNED
NO...
STEP

I CAN'T COMPLETELY DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THERE'S ONE OTHER PERSON ALIVE OUT THERE.
AT THE VERY LEAST THERE'LL BE ONE PERSON LEFT...
THE ONE THE VIRUS IS MAKING WRITE THE LETTERS.

RIGHT NOW...
I'M...
...THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT NATSUKO AGAIN.
BUT EITHER WAY, WHEN I FIND THEM, I'LL KILL THEM.
AND THEN...
...THE ORDERS WILL FINALLY STOP.
MYSELF...
...

YUUJI... I'M SORRY.
SLUMP
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
THERE'S NO WAY OUT.
IF I'D SAVED YOU, SHUUHEI-SAN WOULD HAVE DIED.
DRIP DRIP
DAMMIT.
THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE BOTH!

トラック…!!
YU—
GASP
ハッ
ゴボッ
KHHCK
YUUJI!
ガはッ
GHACK!
YUUJI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
ゴボ
HURK—
ゴボ
GHACK…
ハァ
HAAH
ハァ
HUU

KH-HH-K
NOT...
NOT REALLY, MAN...
DRIP DRIP
I... SCREWED UP...
DON'T TALK! I'LL GET A DOCTOR!
SHOULDA... RAN FARTHER.
DON'T...
THEY... DON'T CARE ABOUT... SAVING US ANY-MORE...
WHEEZE WHEEZE
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
SOME-ONE WILL—
BLUR

I'M GLAD... YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON... I'LL SEE, KAZUNARI.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
WHO DIDN'T TRY TO KILL US...
CLENCH
DON'T...

DON'T QUIT ON ME!
I CAN'T MOVE HIM, HE'LL BLEED OUT
...
WHEEZING
WHEEZING
JUST HANG IN THERE UNTIL I CAN GET A DOCTOR—
SNIFF

C-CARRY ME... TO THE DOC...

STEP
ARE YOU CRAZY?! YOU'RE BLEEDING TOO MUCH, I CAN'T MOVE YOU—
IT'S FINE.
I CAN HANDLE IT.
...ALL RIGHT.
IF IT GETS TOO BE TOO MUCH, JUST SAY SO.
PLIT
TIA
TIA
PLIT

...PAY YOU BACK FOR THE CAVE...
I NEVER DID..
YOU KNOW...
I STILL OWE YOU...
ONE...
THANKS...
SHIT!
YOU CAN REPAY ME BY LIVING!
SHUT UP!

NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY I WALK, IT'S MAKING HIM BLEED TOO MUCH.
THE MORE I MOVE HIM, THE WORSE THE BLEEDING GETS.
YUUJI, WAIT HERE.
I'LL GET A DOC—

SLUMP
YUUI.

KAZUNARI... LEAVE ME. GO.
GO TO HELL— I AM NOT LEAVING YOU BEHIND!
I WILL DRAG YOUR ASS IF I HAVE TO!
YOU ARE NOT DYING ON ME!
HE'S GETTING COLDER...

KAZUNARI...
THANK YOU.
"THANK YOU?"
THAT'S A NEW ONE.
HEY NOW, EVEN I'LL THANK SOMEONE WHEN THEY'VE EARNED IT.
WHEN I'M TRULY GRATEFUL...
DRIP
NNH
I COULDN'T SAVE YOU THIS TIME.
I'M SORRY...
!!!
DRIP
SORRY I COULDN'T COME THROUGH.

SATURDAY
AUGUST 20,
2:13 P.M.

SKUFF
ズル…
RUSTLE
…KO…
NATSU…KO…
A COUPLE WEEKS AGO NATSUKO AND I WERE OUT HERE...
...THE SUNLIGHT FILTERING DOWN THROUGH THE LEAVES...
IT FEELS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO.

SHAAAA
CREEAK

C'MON, RYUUJI...
CAN YOU JUST GIVE UP ALREADY?
LIKE I SAID, LET ME KILL YOU AND I PROMISE TO MAKE OUT WITH YOU.

F-FOR-GET YOU!
WHYY WOULD I CARE ABOUT MAKING OUT IF I'M A CORPSE?!
FAIR ENOUGH.
I'LL MAKE OUT WITH YOU WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO DISTRACT ME SO YOU CAN BUMP ME OFF!
HEY, I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, REMEMBER?
AT LEAST I SAID I'D KISS YOU FIRST.

...
OR WOULD YOU RATHER...
...COP A FEEL?
SWAY
スッ
WHOOSH

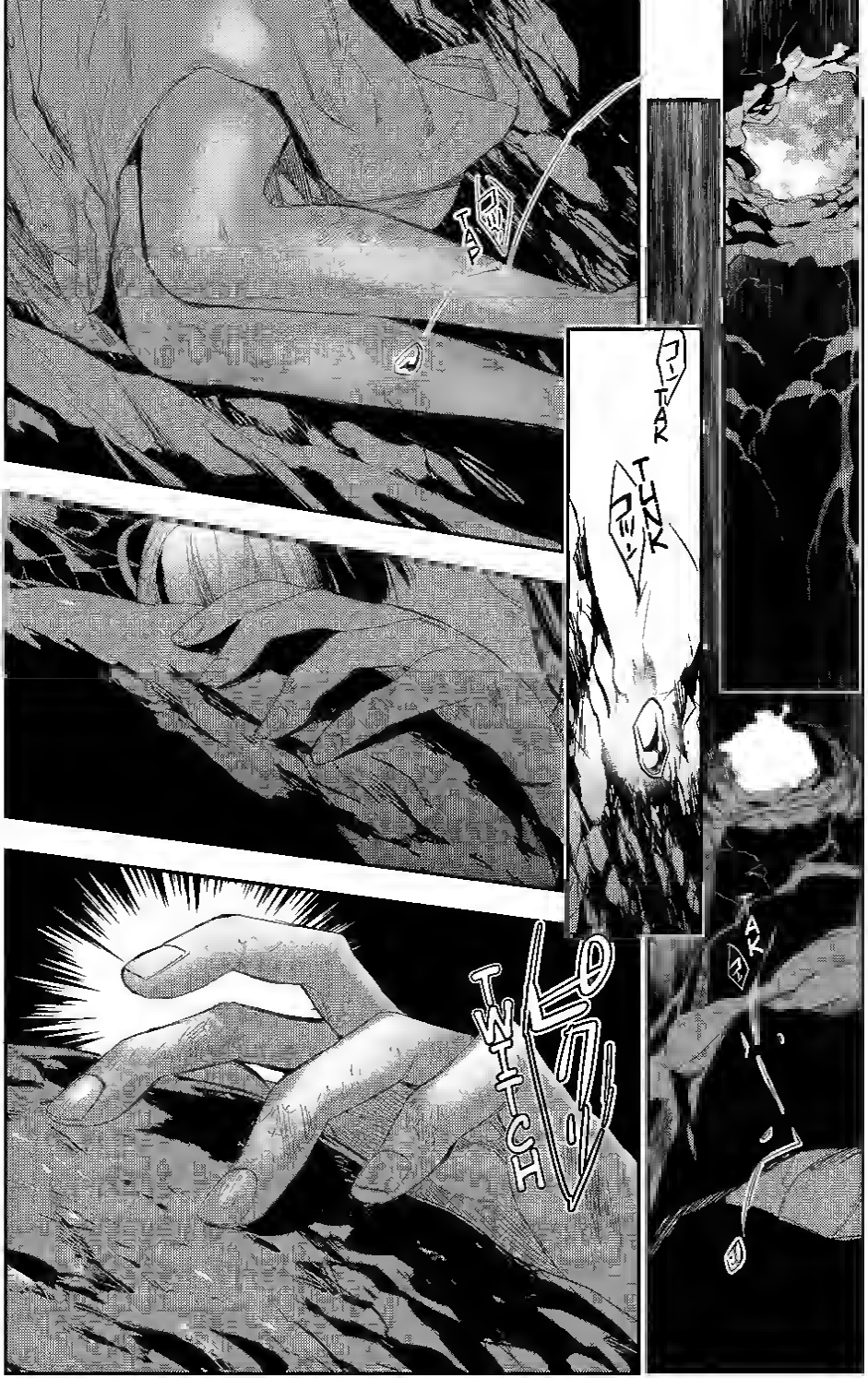
BEEP!
SWISH
KNIFE
SLICE
SPLURCH

GUHAAA!
MICHIKO, STOP IT!
DON'T KILL RYUU-JI!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!

DASH
RYUUJI!
GASP
BLAM
RYUUJI, NO! SHUUHEI-SAN'S WAITING OVER THERE!

RYUUJI..
YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?
SHAAAAA
SO COULD YOU PLEASE...

...JUST DIE...
...FOR ME?


TAP
TAR
TUNK
TWITCH